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SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-first year

Letter dated 15 July 1996 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Cyprus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to draw your attention to new violations of the airspace of the Republic of Cyprus and of the flight information region by military aircraft of the Turkish Air Force, which were recorded yesterday, 14 July 1996, as follows:

1. A formation of six Turkish Air Force aircraft entered at 1000 hours without permission the Nicosia flight information region, flying at an altitude of 27,800 to 29,000 feet. The six aircraft violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus and exited the Nicosia flight information region at 1032 hours.

2. On the same day, another formation of five Turkish Air Force aircraft violated Cyprus airspace, entering at 1010 hours the flight information region of Nicosia at an altitude of 29,100 to 21,000 feet. The five aircraft exited the Nicosia flight information region at 1040 hours.

The repeated violations of the Nicosia flight information region and of the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by Turkish military aircraft are indicative of the provocative attitude of Turkey, which in 1974 invaded and occupied 37 per cent of the territory of the Republic of Cyprus.

At the same time, such unauthorized intrusions into the Nicosia flight information region are in violation of international air traffic rules and seriously endanger civil aviation flights over Cyprus.

On behalf of the Government of the Republic of Cyprus, I wish to strongly protest against these violations of the Nicosia flight information region and of the Republic's airspace by Turkish Air Force aircraft. The new violations of

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the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Cyprus are contrary to the Charter of the United Nations and to the relevant decisions of the Organization on the question of Cyprus. Furthermore, this provocative behaviour of Turkey is also in complete disregard of the latest Security Council resolution on Cyprus, resolution 1062 (1996) of 28 June 1996 which states among other things that overflights in the airspace of Cyprus by military aircraft have increased tension.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 55, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Kornelios S. KORNELIOU
Chargé d'affaires a.i.
of the Republic of Cyprus
to the United Nations